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Department of Safety

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Deborah A. Pendergast
Director

DATE: May 8, 2014
TO: EMS Unit Leaders & EMS Providers
FROM: NH Bureau Chief, Nick Mercuri
RE: Intranasal Narcan

As many of you have seen in the news or have heard, prescription painkillers and heroin overdoses are on the rise both in New Hampshire and throughout the nation. In fact, nationwide deaths from prescription painkillers have reached epidemic levels killing more Americans than motor vehicle crashes.

At the March 2014 Medical Control Board meeting the board approved the release of the updated Poison/Substance Abuse/Overdose Protocol 2.15A, which includes intranasal naloxone (also known as narcan), at the EMR, EMT-B, and EMT level.

The Bureau of EMS and the Education Technology Section have developed an online training program on narcan administration. This online training program, along with a psychomotor skills session, will allow EMRs and EMTs to administer narcan for prescription painkillers and heroin overdoses.

We know that 88% of the time ALS providers are responding to emergency in New Hampshire. Our ALS providers are a great resource to help train our BLS providers in the psychomotor skill of intranasal administration. For this reason we are asking the EMS Unit to organize their own "in house" skills verifications with their ALS providers (Skill sheets and instructions will be available upon release of the protocol). If the agency does not have any ALS providers please contact your EMS Medical Directors or EMS Hospital Coordinators to assist you in finding local ALS providers.

We expect to release the protocol rollout for this updated protocol next week. In the meantime please think about how you can help implement the skill verification sessions.

If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact Bureau Chief, Mercuri or ALS Coordinator, Vicki Blanchard at 603-223-4200.

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